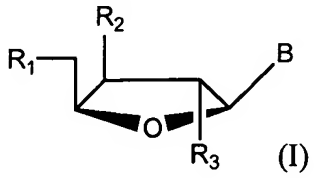
**Amendments to the Claims**

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, or listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of 2'- or 3'-deoxy- and 2',3'-dideoxy-β-L-pentofurano[[c]]nucleoside compounds of formula I:



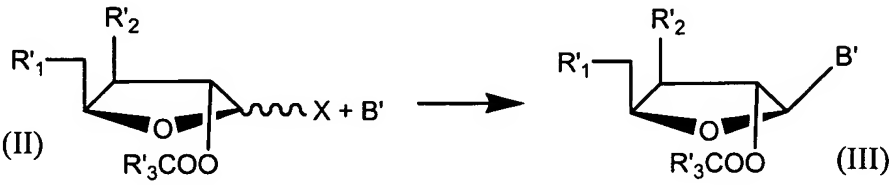
(I)

in which

- B represents purine or pyrimidine base;
- $R_1$ represents OH;
- $R_2$ and $R_3$ represent, independently of each other, H or OH; and
- at least one of $R_2$ and $R_3$ represents H;

characterized in that the following steps are carried out:

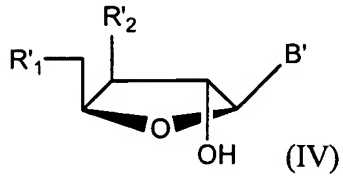
1) a compound of formula (II) is condensed with the base B in order to obtain the compound of formula (III) according to the scheme




in which formulae (II) and (III):

- $R'_1$ and $R'_2$ have the meanings given for $R_1$ and $R_2$ except that when $R_1$ and $R_2$ represent OH, the ~~said~~ OH group is protected by a protecting group such as an acyl, benzoyl, benzyl or silyl group,
- $R'_3$ represents a $C_1$ to $C_5$ alkyl group or a phenyl radical, which are optionally substituted,
- X is a leaving group such as Cl, Br, I or a $C_1$ to $C_5$ acyloxy or alkoxy group,
- B' is a purine or pyrimidine base B which is optionally appropriately protected,

2) the $R'_3COO$ group at the 2' position is removed by deacetylation so as to obtain an OH group and a compound of formula



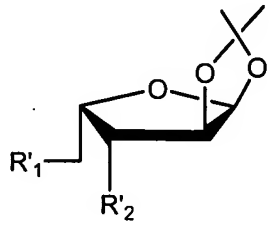
(IV)

3) optionally, the OH group at the 2' position is removed; and

4) where appropriate, the $R'_1$ and $R'_2$ groups and the B' base are deprotected so as to obtain the compounds of formula (I).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the compounds (II) and (III), $R'_3$ represents a $C_1$ to $C_5$ alkyl group~~, preferably $CH_3$~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the compound (II), ~~di-O-acetylated at the 1, 2 position,~~ in which X and $R'_3COO$ represent an O-acetyl group, is prepared by acetolysis of ~~the~~ a 1,2-isopropylid-ene-L-xylofuranose compound of formula (V)

(V)


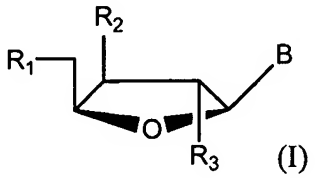

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1~~ to 3~~, characterized in that $R'_2$ and $R'_3COO$ are different, in particular $R'_2$ is an O-benzoyl group and $R'_3$ is an alkyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1~~ to 4~~, characterized in that the compounds of formula (I) are prepared in which $R_2$ and $R_3$ represent H or OH.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1~~ to 4~~, characterized in that the B represents one of the adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, uracil, thymine or cytosine bases, ~~it being possible for~~ wherein these bases may ~~to~~ be substituted ~~especially~~ by a halogen at the 5 position for cytosine and uracil.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which B is cytosine ~~according to one of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that a compound ~~of formula (I) is prepared~~ in which B is uracil ~~according to the method of Claims 1 to 6 and the uridine derivative~~ is converted to a compound of Formula I in which B is cytosine ~~cytidine derivative~~ by converting uracil to cytosine.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Stereoisomeric~~ A stereoisomeric β-L-pentofuranonucleoside compounds corresponding to the following formula



(I)

in which

- B has the meaning given in one of Claims 1 and 6 , $R_1$ represents OH and,
  - either $R_2$ represents OH and $R_3$ represents H,
  - or $R_2$ represents H and $R_3$ represents OH.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ The compound according to Claim 7, characterized in that B represents uracil, 5-fluorouracil, hypoxanthine, 5-fluorocytosine, guanine or adenine.

10. -11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the~~ A method of treatment of a viral infection comprising administering a compound[[s]] according to one of Claims 8 or 9 ~~to 11, as drugs~~.

13. (canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compounds according to one of Claims 8 to 11, as an antiviral drug which is useful for the treatment of AIDS~~ The method of claim 12 wherein the viral infection is HIV.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ The method of claim 12 wherein the compound is β-L-5-fluoro ddC ~~according to Claim 14, as antiviral agent~~.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ The method of claim 14 wherein the compound is β-L-5-fluoro ddC ~~according to Claim 14, as anti-HIV agent~~.

17. (New) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the compounds (II) and (III), $R'_3$ represents $CH_3$.